(3) MOTION UNDER RULE 85 OF THE ASSEMBLY RULES *re* MEETING OF JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE ON IRRIGATION (LEVY OF BETTERMENT CONTRIBUTION) BILL, 1954.

MR. SPEAKER :—" The House would remember that the Madras Irrigation (Levy of Betterment Contribution) Bill, 1954, has been referred to a Select Committee. If the Committee wants to meet in any place other than Madras, it should obtain the permission of the House. The Hon. Minister will move for permission of the House."

THE HON. SRI M. A. NANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" I am sorry, Sir, I omitted that matter. I move—

' *That under rule 85 of the Assembly Rules, the House gives permission to the Select Committee on the Madras Irrigation (Levy of Betterment Contribution) Bill,* 1954, *to sit anywhere in the State and not necessarily in Madras.'* "

MR. SPEAKER :—" I do not think there is any objection. I hope all hon. Members agree to the proposal, and I take it that it is passed."

The motion was put and carried.

(2) THE MADRAS HINDU RELIGIOUS AND CHARITABLE ENDOWMENTS (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1954—*cont.*

MR. SPEAKER :—" The motion is—

' That the concurrence of the Legislative Council be obtained for setting up a Joint Select Committee of both the Houses consisting of 23 Members (15 Members of the Assembly and 8 Members of the Council) to consider the Madras Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments (Amedment) Bill, 1954.' "

The motion is before the House for discussion.

11-30 a.m. * SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" Mr. Speaker, Sir, I wish to take this opportunity to express my disappointment, or shall I say my disgust at the way in which the problem of Hindu Religious Endowments has been handled by the successive Governments of the State. It is said that we are a secular State. Nonetheless we are armed with powers to legislate in regard to properties owned by religious institutions. One can understand the Government's bringing a measure, a general measure so to say, affecting all the religious institutions. But, it has been the practice of this State to choose, probably with the best of intentions, only Hindu Religious institutions and the progress of legislation with regard to this matter has only been from confusion to confusion. As a result of this, as said by the Hon. Minister, we have today practically no legislation governing the point. We have reached a stage when we have neither religion nor endowments. Sir, the history of legislation relating to religious institutions has been an attempt of the Government to create certain fields of